

## Max Boot

Max Boot is a historian, best-selling author, columnist, and foreign-policy analyst who has been described by the International Institute for Strategic Studies as one of the “world’s leading authorities on armed conflict.” He is the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick senior fellow in national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and a columnist for the *Washington Post*.

Max Boot’s latest work of history, *The Road Not Taken: Edward Lansdale and the American Tragedy in Vietnam* (Norton/Liveright, 2018), was a *New York Times* bestseller and a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Biography. It was praised as an “epic and elegant biography” (*Wall Street Journal*), “judicious and absorbing” (*New York Times*), and “a superb scholarly achievement” (*Foreign Policy*).

Max Boot was the author of another book released by Norton/Liveright in 2018--*The Corrosion of Conservatism: Why I Left the Right*—which was described as a “devastating dissection of conservatism’s degeneracy in America” by Andrew Sullivan in *New York* magazine and as “soul-searching” and “refreshing” by the *New York Times*.

Max Boot is also the author of three previous books that were all widely acclaimed: the *New York Times* bestseller *Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present* (Norton/Liveright, 2013), which *The Wall Street Journal* said “is destined to be the classic account of what may be the oldest as well as the hardest form of war”; *War Made New: Technology, Warfare, and the Course of History, 1500 to Today* (Gotham Books, 2006), which was hailed as a “magisterial survey of technology and war” by the *New York Times*; and *The Savage Wars of Peace: Small Wars and the Rise of American Power* (Basic Books, 2002), which won the 2003 General Wallace M. Greene Jr. Award from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation as the best nonfiction book pertaining to Marine Corps history and has been placed on Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy professional reading lists.

Boot was a senior foreign policy adviser to John McCain’s presidential campaign in 2007–08, Mitt Romney’s campaign in 2011–12, and Marco Rubio’s campaign in 2015–2016. He served as an adviser to U.S. commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has lectured on behalf of the U.S. State Department and at many military institutions, including the Army, Navy, and Air War Colleges, the Australian Defense College, the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare School, West Point, and the Naval Academy. He has also spoken at many universities, including Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Princeton, Columbia, U.C. Berkeley, UCLA, and Stanford.

In 2018, Max Boot was named one of America’s “Great Immigrants” by the Carnegie Corporation and one of the 50 most influential Jewish Americans by the *Forward* newspaper. In 2007, he won the Eric Breindel Award for Excellence in Opinion Journalism, given annually to a writer who exhibits “love of country and its democratic institutions” and “bears witness to the evils of totalitarianism.” In 2004, he was named by the World Affairs Councils of America as one of “the 500 most influential people in the United States in the field of foreign policy.”

Before joining the Council in 2002, Boot spent eight years as a writer and editor at the *Wall Street Journal*, the last five as op-ed editor. From 1992 to 1994 he was an editor and writer at the *Christian Science Monitor*. In more recent years, Boot has been a CNN national security analyst, a columnist for *Foreign Policy*, a contributing editor to the *Los Angeles Times*, a member of the *USA Today* board of contributors, and a regular contributor to many other publications including the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*. He serves on the boards of Intelligence Squared US and the Renew Democracy Initiative.

Boot holds a bachelor’s degree in history, with high honors, from the University of California, Berkeley (1991), and a master’s degree in history from Yale University (1992). He was born in Moscow, grew up in Los Angeles, and now lives with his family in the New York area.